



CLAY ECHIDNA

BRINGING STICKS AND CLAY TO LIFE IN WINTER

Using simple, natural materials can be a great way to explore wildlife throughout the seasons. Clay serves as a wonderful resource for harnessing children's capacity for resourcefulness, inventiveness, and creativity. It provides a great open-ended, sustainable and ever-changing resource.

How to create your own clay echidna this winter:

- 1 Print off photographs of echidnas prior to activity.
- 2 Research echidnas with children, share (fiction and non-fiction) texts with them.
- 3 Provide each child with a ball of clay and a shared basket of sticks.
- 4 Have water on hand to soften the clay if required.
- 5 Encourage children to use language and describe how the clay feels as they roll it to form their echidna.
- 6 Ask children to estimate how many sticks they will need to fill their echidna.
- 7 Create an echidna train with all the finished echidnas.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE NPSA TEAM

Activities with clay seem to captivate children for lengthy periods of time. Some will sit there, simply squishing and squashing it, immersing themselves in sensory delightfulness. Creating clay echidnas is something children seem to really treasure and express great pride for creating something so precious out of nothing. ~ Lisa